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## House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. NETHERCUTT).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,

April 26, 1999.

I hereby appoint the Honorable GEORGE R. NETHERCUTT, Jr. to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

J. DENNIS HASTERT,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Reverend James David Ford, D.D., offered the following prayer:

When we bow our heads for this moment of prayer it is our petition, almighty God, that our hearts and souls will focus on Your abundant and forgiving love to us and to all people. In a troubled world where violence seems to be so rampant, we pray that we will lift our eyes to see Your vision of hope, a vision where the good words of faith and reconciliation and understanding will not only be the words of our lips, but will be translated into deeds that comfort and sustain and strengthen our human community. This is our earnest prayer. Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House his approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from Nevada (Mr. GIBBONS)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. GIBBONS led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Mr. Lundregan, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate had passed a bill and a concurrent resolution of the following titles, in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 574. An act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make corrections to a map relating to the Coastal Barrier Resources System.

S. Con. Res. 29. Concurrent resolution authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for concerts to be conducted by the National Symphony Orchestra.

### APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO UNITED STATES CAPITOL PRESERVATION COMMISSION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection and pursuant to section 801(b) of Public Law 100-696, the Chair announces the Speaker's appointment of the following Members of the House to the United States Capitol Preservation Commission:

Mr. TAYLOR, North Carolina;

Mr. FRANKS, New Jersey.

There was no objection.

### OPPOSE H.R. 45, NUCLEAR WASTE POLICY ACT

(Mr. GIBBONS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. GIBBONS. Mr. Speaker, the Constitution, as I read and understand it, gives the House of Representatives the sole authority to raise taxes. However,

now the nuclear industry wants to change this. H.R. 45, the Nuclear Waste Policy Act of 1999, proposes to grant taxing authority to the Secretary of Energy. That is right, the Secretary of Energy will have the authority to raise taxes on your electric rates, and that is a terrible precedent to set.

The bill also proposes to take the Nuclear Waste Trust Fund off budget. We all know what that means. No more congressional oversight on how much money goes into the account or how the money is spent. And it puts the Nuclear Waste Trust Fund in the same technical off-budget status as the Social Security Trust Fund. How bizarre.

H.R. 45 will break the balanced budget resolution and circumvent the bipartisan Budget Enforcement Act. Not to mention this bill still completely ignores our environmental laws, it ignores commonsense science, it ignores transportation hazards, and it ignores human health concerns.

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 45 circumvents the Constitution, it sets bad congressional precedent, and it is bad for America. We need to do what is right for our constituents and oppose H.R. 45.

### SPECIAL ORDERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 6, 1999, and under a previous order of the House, the following Members will be recognized for 5 minutes each.

### FORT KING BILL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under a previous order of the House, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEARNS) is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, today I will introduce a bill of historical importance. My home, Ocala, Florida, is home to Fort King. This Fort played a direct role in the founding of Florida as a state.

□ This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., □ 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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